

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 MC-02 IO-13 AID-05
IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
OAU COLLECTIVE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - ZAIRE - APRIL 22, 1977

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS CONCERNING ZAIRE FROM
DEPARTMENT BRIEFING APRIL 22.
2. Q: WHEN SENATOR CLARK ASKED WHY WE ARE PROVIDING
THIS MILITARY DICTATORSHIP WITH ARMS, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE LUCY BENSON WAS QUOTED AS REPLYING,
"THERE IS NO CLEAR-CUT ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.
AND MY QUESTION IS, WHY DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT
BELIEVE THAT THERE NEED NOT BE A CLEAR-CUT ANSWER FOR
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AN INVESTMENT OF \$30 MILLION?

A: THAT WAS ONE QUOTE TAKEN OUT OF A NUMBER OF
ANSWERS THAT MRS. BENSON GAVE. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, ONE --
I MEAN FIRST, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DISTINGUISH,
WHICH THAT PARTICULAR STORY FAILED TO DISTINGUISH,
BETWEEN AID WHICH IS ACTUALLY BEING GIVEN -- AND AID

WHICH HAS BEEN PROJECTED AS A POSSIBILITY IN A COMING FISCAL YEAR, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE USED FOR PURPOSES WHICH THE STORY SUGGESTED IN THE LEAD THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE USED FOR, AND AT LEAST IMPLIED THAT IT WAS GOING

TO BE USED FOR NOW, ALL OF WHICH IS INCORRECT. NOW, INSOFAR AS WHY WE ARE PROVIDING AID TO ZAIRE --INSOFAR AS WHY WE ARE PROVIDING AID TO ZAIRE, WHICH IS YOUR QUESTION, WE HAVE ADDRESSED THAT ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION AND TO PRESERVE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE. NOW, INSOFAR AS ANY FUTURE FUNDS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES ARE CONCERNED IN ZAIRE, THEY ARE GOING TO BE REVIEWED AT THE TIME THAT THEY COME UP, REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND AT THE TIME, AND DECISIONS WHICH ARE MADE ABOUT THEIR USE WILL BE MADE AFTER FULL CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.

3. Q: ONE LAST PART OF THIS: SHE WAS QUOTED -- ASSISTANT SECRETARY BENSON WAS QUOTED AS TESTIFYING THAT MOBUTO'S DISRESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, QUOTE "IS NOT PERVERSIVE. IT'S AN ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN THING." DID THIS RAISE YOUR CURIOSITY AT ALL, HODDING, I MEAN, AS TO HOW A DICTATORSHIP IS OFF AGAIN AND ON AGAIN? IT'S CLAIMED THAT THIS IS AN ACCURATE QUOTE -- IT IS AN INACCURATE QUOTE -- AND I JUST WONDERED.

A: I HAVE INDICATED HERE BEFORE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION, AS THE PRESIDENT SAID, -- DOES NOT PROFESS TO BELIEVE UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE, AS THE SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN THIS WORLD, IS A HUNDRED PERCENT PURE WHEN IT COMES TO HUMAN RIGHTS. WHAT WE ARE SUGGESTING IS THAT WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION, WHICH WE ARE HONORING; AND I MIGHT ADD THAT ANY FUTURE ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, WHEN IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE SITUATION WHICH IS ON THE GROUND AT THE TIME, IS ALSO GOING TO INCLUDE IN THAT ASSESSMENT THE CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. Q. IS THERE NOW ANY REQUEST BY ANY AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR M-60 TANKS FOR ZAIRE?

A: THERE IS NOTHING IN THE CURRENT ALLOCATION WHICH IS SET ASIDE, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, FOR TANKS. THERE IS IN THE FISCAL '78 FMS PROPOSAL A SUGGESTION THAT OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, WHICH WILL NOT TERMINATE WITH FISCAL '78, THERE WILL BE THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF VEHICULAR BATTALIONS, WHICH INCLUDE TANKS. BUT, AGAIN -- I WANT TO REPEAT -- THIS IS FISCAL '78. THIS IS GOING TO BE REVIEW-

ED. IT IS A PROGRAM WHICH WAS INITIATED BEFORE THIS ADMINISTRATION BEGAN. IT HAS BEEN A MATTER OF SOME PUBLIC RECORD FOR SOME TIME. IT IS NOT SOMETHING WHICH HAS BEEN SPRUNG SUDDENLY IN RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCY SITUATION IN ZAIRE.

5. Q. WHY DID THE PRESIDENT SAY THIS MORNING THAT HE

THOUGHT IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY HE WOULD APPROVE TANKS? HAS HE PREJUDGED THE SITUATION?

A: I THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT IS GOING TO HAVE TO ANSWER ON THAT ONE, I DON' HAVE A RESPONSE TO THAT.

6. Q: YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN FUTURE SECURITY ASSISTANCE?

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A: YES.

8. Q: -- AND THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID I THINK THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN EACH ONE. ARE YOU PUTTING SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON IT?

A: NO, I'M NOT SINGLING IT OUT. I AM ASKED A SPECIFIC QUESTION, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ZAIRE. IN RESPONDING TO THAT I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS IS PART OF OUR SPECIFIC POLICY IN ZAIRE.

9. Q: WELL, THERE'S NOTHING -- NO DIFFERENCE, HODDING-- BECAUSE IT'S BEEN IN THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT FOR SOME TIME. SO ACTUALLY WHAT COMES IN THE FUTURE IS NO DIFFERENT THAN WHAT IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW, WHICH IS THAT IT IS A DICTATORSHIP. THERE IS A DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO QUITE AN EXTENT, BUT WE STILL SEND THEM MONEY. SO ACTUALLY IS THERE ANYTHING DIFFERENT PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE THAT YOU COULD DESIGNATE?

A: I REALLY CANNOT SPECULATE ON WHAT THE OUTCOME OF FUTURE DECISIONS WILL BE SINCE I CAN'T DETERMINE WHAT THE SITUATION IS GOING TO BE WHEN WE MAKE THOSE DECISIONS. THAT'S ALL.

10. Q: DOES WHAT YOU SAY TODAY REPRESENT A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION POLICY TOWARDS ZAIRE?

A: NO. IT'S A REAFFIRMATION OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY.

11. Q: SO ALL PAST -- SINCE THIS ADMINISTRATION CAME

IN ALL COMMITMENTS TO ZAIRE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUE?

A: YES, THEY HAVE.

12. FYI: THERE WILL BE NO EXCERPTS OF APRIL 21 BRIEFING
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SINCE NO QUESTIONS POSED ON ZAIRE.
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Message Attributes

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